

2004, after careful review of the state of political reform in Uzbekistan, the Department of State decided that the leader is not fulfilling the terms of the 2002 Strategic Partnership Framework agreement, which mandated substantial and continuing progress on democracy movements and decided to deny certification to Uzbekistan.

In Uzbekistan, religion becomes criminal in that country as soon as it strays out of the official State-controlled Islam. The Uzbek government is behaving much as it did with its Soviet predecessors.

Following massive arrests in Uzbekistan of followers of the two leading militant groups, adherents of the movements have gone underground. Yet their numbers are swelling in the region, particularly among young unemployed folks who are distributing the information put forth by the militants, and they try to manipulate the religion for terrorist political gain, and they are doing so because they need the money.

Thus, the dependence of many governments throughout Central Asia on tyrannical rule does not only fail to adequately address the problem of Islamic extremism, but it serves to fuel the terrorism that stems from it.

We, and other open societies, must, therefore, condition our assistance to Central Asian states not only on their cooperation on the terrorism front, but also on their taking concrete steps in Central Asia toward the establishment of the rule of law, the support for the growth of civil society and support for building democratic institutions.

With the role of the United States in Central Asia, the region faces the best possible scenario to solve their problems jointly.

We are uniquely placed to press for regional cooperation and to monitor the commitment of regional states to real improvement of social, economic and political conditions.

That is why we have exerted congressional oversight through hearings and briefings, to make sure that everyone understands the current state of human rights in Central Asia because only by helping to create an environment where freedom and prosperity can flourish will we achieve long-term success in the war against terror and oppression.

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLES of South Carolina). Without objection, the order of the House recognizing the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is vacated.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORD addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order and address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

CENTENNIAL OF THE CHICAGO DEFENDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the centennial, the 100th anniversary, of the birth of the Chicago Defender, one of America's great, historic institutions which make up the fourth estate, our free press.

The Defender, founded in 1905 by Robert Sengstacke Abbott, follows in the tradition of Freedom's Journal founded by Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm, and the North Star founded by Frederick Douglass.

Abbott began publishing the Defender out of his kitchen, producing about 300 copies at a quarter each. By 1929, the Defender was selling more than 250,000 copies each week.

From its first days, the Defender has also been a campaigner for freedom, equality and justice under the slogan, "American race prejudice must be destroyed." It has covered stories largely ignored by white-owned press. The Chicago Defender reported the 1919 Chicago riots, the election of Oscar DePriest to Congress, and the opening of the first U.S. bank owned and operated by an African American. The Chicago Defender covered the aftermath of the death of Emmett Till and the career of the honorable Elijah Muhammad.

In its editorial pages, the Defender exposed white oppression and the lynching of African Americans. During World War I, the Defender urged equal treatment of black soldiers. During World War II, the Defender protested the treatment of African American servicemen protecting the Nation and urged the integration of the Armed Forces. The Chicago Defender fearlessly spoke out against lynching, racism and segregation, and aroused the conscience of the Nation.

The Defender led a remarkable campaign which brought thousands of southerners to the north from 1915 to 1925. Known in the history books as the Great Migration, over 1 million African Americans read vivid descriptions about options to life in the south in the pages of the Defender and migrated to the north in that short period.

The Defender has been home to many of our Nation's great writers and artists, including novelist Willard Motley, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, and writer Langston Hughes, culturist Margaret Burroughs, women's page editor Mar-

ian Campfield and editorial page cartoonist Oliver Harrington. Outstanding scholars and reporters such as W.E.B. DuBois, Vernon Jarrett and Lu Palmer appeared in the ages of the Defender.

In 1923, the Chicago Defender introduced the first newspaper section written for children, the Bud Billiken page. Since 1929, the Chicago Defender along with the Defender Charities has sponsored the world famous Bud Billiken Day Parade and Picnic, the largest event of its kind, with more than 1 million people attending and viewing.

The Defender reported the campaign and election of Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor.

After the departure of Robert Abbott, the mission of the Defender was carried on with undying spirit and integrity by long-time publisher and driving force John Sengstacke who died at the helm of age 84 in 1997. Today, the chairman of the board, Thomas Picou, president and CEO Clarence Nixon, Junior, and Chicago Defender Executive Editor Roland S. Martin are leading a campaign to rebuild the circulation and infrastructure of this unique and irreplaceable institution.

The Defender reported the elections of Carol Mosley-Braun and BARACK OBAMA, two of only three African Americans elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction.

Mr. Speaker, the centenary of the Chicago Defender is a milestone in the history of our Nation and cause for celebration for the entire country. The history of the Defender is a proud page of our free press. The history reported by the Defender is a chapter of our collective history which without this great paper would have been forever lost.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor and privilege to bring to the attention of this House this milestone in the evolution of our democracy. I congratulate the leadership of the Chicago Defender and wish them success in their next 100 years, which are yet to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, \$6,198 trillion, \$6,198,000,000,000, a lot of money. An almost inconceivable amount of money. So many zeros that it is easy to pretend that it is paper money which, of course it is not, but that is how much our gross national debt was, how much our government owed, how much we owed in real money to our Social Security trust fund, to our bondholders and to many foreign countries,